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Subject: Re: Cost of student version of IDL  
Posted by [d.poreh](#) on Mon, 14 May 2012 06:47:11 GMT  
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On Tuesday, May 8, 2012 7:54:32 PM UTC+2, dave poreh wrote:

> On Tuesday, May 8, 2012 8:21:36 AM UTC-7, Kenneth P. Bowman wrote:

>> I am going back into the classroom next fall to teach IDL to undergraduates  
>> after spending the last few years as department head. The course alternates  
>> between IDL and Matlab, and we have talked about adding a Python version section.

>>

>> I am working on ways to get students to spend more time outside of class reading  
>> my book and working IDL examples in order to create more time in class to work  
>> with students individually.

>>

>> To accomplish this, students need to have a copy of IDL on their personal  
>> computers. I looked at the Exelis website yesterday and found that the student  
>> edition of IDL is \$89 (\$149 with the IMSL library). That didn't seem too bad  
>> until I realized that that price is for a 1-year license! So a sophomore taking  
>> my course would need to pay at least \$270 to keep a working IDL license until  
>> graduation. Knowing students as I do, most will simply let their licenses  
>> lapse.

>>

>> For reference, my IDL textbook is \$42 on Amazon. When my text was first  
>> released (2006), a non-expiring student IDL license was \$49.

>>

>> We make IDL available in our labs, but the inconvenience of coming to the campus  
>> guarantees that students will only use IDL when they \*have\* to.

>>

>> For comparison, I see that Mathworks charges \$99 for a student Matlab license  
>> with no time limit. They require proof of enrollment to move the license to a  
>> new machine after 4 years, and they charge for upgrades.

>>

>> In the current environment (with free alternatives like Python), does the IDL  
>> student pricing make sense to anyone?

>>

>> Has anyone worked out better ways to get students access to IDL?

>>

>> Ken Bowman

>

> I have a question: is this version (student version) for research too? I mean could we do the  
graphs for publications?

No body knows if you could do publications with the student version or not?

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